

Phase II Of New Justice Center Approved

by Tom Nettlinger

Construction will soon start on Phase II of the Wasatch County Justice Center following Monday's authorization by the Municipal Building Authority to issue \$2.1 million in lease revenue bonds. Operating as the Board of Trustees of the Municipal Building Authority of Wasatch County, Wasatch County Commissioners approved the bonds, which will finance Phase II of the construction, estimated at \$1.9 million. The bonds will be repaid by lease revenue from the Utah State Court System, which will operate the court portion of the facility.

Monday's decision insures the court portion of the project will be built, with construction to start immediately. Construction is already underway on the jail portion of the project, with a September completion date planned. A county-wide bond for \$5.52 million was to fund the complete facility, but cost overruns and unexpected utility costs have driven the price up.

County Attorney Dan Matthews indicated Monday there will probably be some funds remaining from the bond issue that can be used for some of the alternate plans for the center, including furnishing the jail's kitchen. Any money remaining after construction is finished to the jail facility and may be used to pay off a portion of the original bond amount, indicated Matthews. The original low bid on the jail portion was \$4,898,000 from Brown-Fantz, that bid. Later the county negotiated the costs down to \$3.8 million. Payments on the lease revenue bonds will be tied to payments between \$170,000 and \$190,000 per year from the state court system. The county is expected to receive the funds from the bond issue in 30 days.

A public hearing was held Monday to consider input for the county's 1995-96 Community Development Block Grant. The county is applying for \$105,000 to go toward the purchase of a new garbage truck, the same application was approved for last year's grant. If approved, the county's cost would be about \$26,000 for the \$131,000 truck. There was no public comment voiced and the proposal will go to the next application step.

Public Works Director Kent Berg met with the Board of Commissioners to discuss road improvements planned for Lake Creek Road. According to Berg, the

state has started federal funds to three sections of the road on a time basis. The first planned for funding is to begin from the forest service line and descend four miles toward the valley.

The commissioners and Berg indicated they do not like the segment limiting, saying the lower portion of the road where new development is taking place should be improved first. As planned, the road would be gravel for several miles, then oiled, then gravel again. The commissioner asked Berg to notify the state of the need to have the lower section improved first.

The board met with representatives from Valley Asphalt to discuss a gravel pit operation in the Walsburg area (see related story, page 1A). After discussion of the conditions of operation, the board approved the business license for the pit, subject to the stipulations set by the planning department. Commissioner Provost voted against the approval.

Members of the Twin Creeks Special Service District met with the commission to present a "final" version of a facility plan to provide sewer service within the district. The Twin Creeks district contains much of the Lake Creek and Center Creek area. Advisory Committee Chairperson Cara Lortz requested the board set a public hearing to review the plan, since it has been substantially changed from the version presented during a December public hearing.

According to Ms. Lortz, the advisory committee made "significant changes" following last December's hearing in response to public comments made at that time. The new hearing was set for May 3 at 7 p.m. in the Heber City Office Building. She added the current plan does not necessarily charge connection fees for the Twin Creeks district, although a Heber Valley Special Service District fee of \$2,300 would still be charged. Copies of the plan will be placed in the library and planning office for public review prior to the hearing date.

In other business the board: approved the amended minutes of the March 13 meeting; approved several business licenses; agreed to hold a monthly solid waste meeting; reviewed health insurance options; requested the county attorney look into a land matter with Clerk/Auditor Brent Tricomb and ratified the A-1 zone revision made last week.

Editorial

A New Court Building

On Monday the Board of Trustees of the Wasatch County Municipal Building Authority (read county commissioners) approved selling lease-revenue bonds totaling \$2.1 million. The bond will be repaid from lease money collected from the state court system for their use of the building. The money will be used to pay for the court portion of the Justice Center on Highway 40 just south of Heber City. Unfortunately the taxpayers in Wasatch County are still faced with a \$5.52 million bond repayment which was supposed to build the entire facility, but cost overruns and unexpected charges have plagued the project.

Thankfully, the county fathers have negotiated with the state court system to insure there is money to build the court portion of the center, and maybe have some of the taxpayer's money left to spend on items previously designated as alternates. Due to the hard work of Bob Mathis, Dan Matthews and

a host of others, the court section will be built with future revenues from leasing the building to the state courts. We hope this time the bond amount will be enough to actually cover the costs of construction.

More importantly, we hope the County Commissioners will use the same foresight to see the county taxpayer gets the most bang for the buck. Any revenues from the original bond should be used to either pay down the bond amount or at least provide facilities previously scrapped due to budget concerns, such as furnishing the jail's kitchen.

We urge our elected officials to insure any surpluses remaining from the original bond are spent in the appropriate manner. Let's not spend money frivolously just because we may now have a few extra dollars. After all, it is not the "county's" money, it belongs to the taxpayers.

23 Mar 1995

New Jail Nearing April Completion

With the completion of the Wasatch County Justice Center just over a month away, contractors are putting the finishing touches on the state-of-the-art facility. Constructed to house 76 prisoners, the county's new jail is designed to meet the most stringent of security requirements. "It's really designed for maximum use," says Spanos. "The medical cells can be used for suicide watch or ADA requirements."

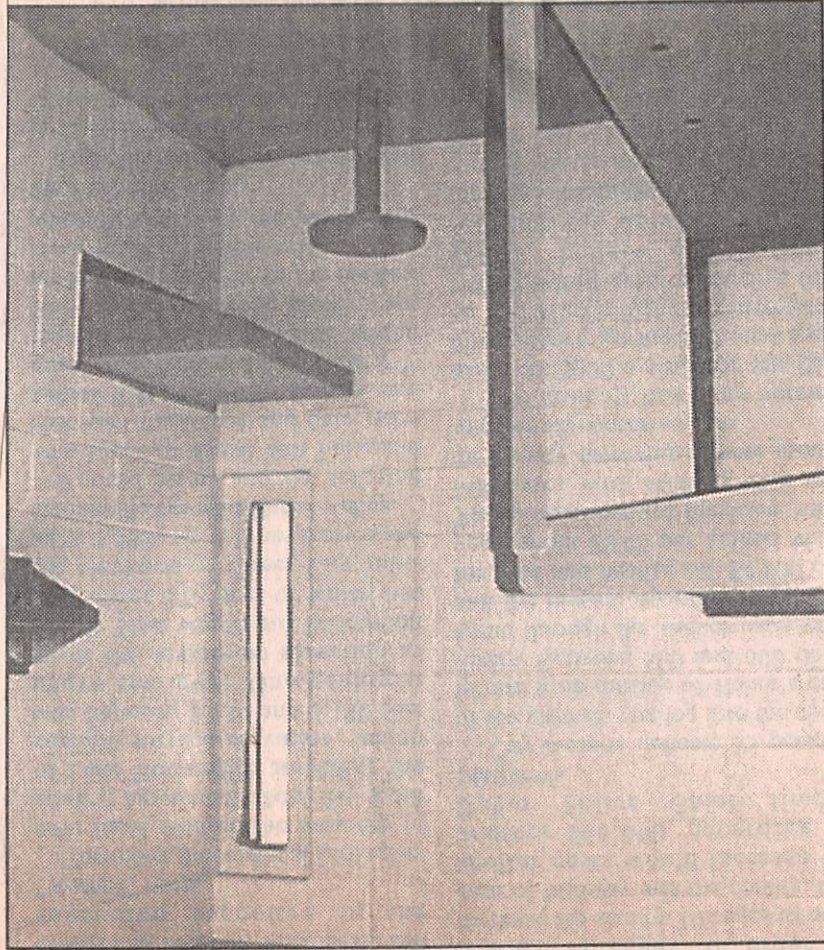
Book Review

County and the Heber City area..." On May 7, 1948 he repeated that assumption, adding "One of the largest of the prehistoric inland lakes.... covering what is today Central Utah during past periods of the geologic record was long vanished Lake Bonneville whose shorelines are still visible here in the Heber area and in Provo Canyon." (A geologist, James F. Kohler, who was raised in Midway and now lives in Bountiful, and has also been a head-shaker over that idea, said, "One can only wonder what Mr. Colton was looking at when he spoke of shoreline features in Heber Valley."

riod the weather became very cold, and with ample precipitation glaciers were formed. One book pointed out that the formation of great fresh-water lakes and the growth of glaciers at high elevations happened at pretty much the same time - that neither caused the other to happen.

Previously caused depressions were filled with the ample water, causing eventually the largest lake in our area, Lake Bonneville. Various levels of Lake Bonneville are observable, even to laymen with a little curiosity about the geological history of the area. The bench areas in Salt Lake Valley and

Inmates in the new Justice Center will find themselves in a state-of-the-art secure facility. Luxuries will include a television in the central area of each cell pod.



The new Justice Center will feature four "pods" which are capable of housing 16 prisoners each. The pods also feature a day area for meals and activities, all in a secure environment.

